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IN VACATION.

Deficiency of Nervous Fluid.—In the case of *Scranton v. Lilley*, 16 Tex. 183, decided in 1856, a medical expert, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania in 1826, testified that the cause of death of a slave named Friday, was “a deficiency of **nervous fluid**, which is **secreted by the brain**; only known by its effects, and believed to be **similar to, if not identical with, electricity**.” Perhaps this “nervous fluid” is the same thing which, when secreted in too large quantities by the brain, gives rise in modern times to the condition known as “brain storm.” A deficiency of it seems to have been as fatal to poor “Friday,” as a superabundance has often proved to other parties.

Willing to Let It Drop.—“Jed Blake to the bar,” ordered the judge in a rural Alabama court.

A big, hulking negro ambled up to be arraigned for murder.

“Jed,” began the judge, “you are charged with the gravest crime known to the law, that of taking the life of a fellow man. One of the forms of punishment for murder is death. Have you made any arrangements for your defense in this case, Jed?”

“No, suh, Jedge. I ain’ done nuthin’.”

“Have you a lawyer, Jed?”

“No, suh, Jedge. I ain’ got no lawyer. I ain’ got nuthin’, Jedge.”

“Well, Jed,” said the Judge, showing a little impatience, “have you talked to anybody about this case?”

“I talked to de sheriff some dat night when he come after me, Jedge, but you knows dat didn’t do no good.”

“For your information, Jed, I will state that it is within the province of this court to appoint counsel to any defendant who has none. I am now ready to appoint you a lawyer. Do you want one?”

“No, suh, Jedge. I don’ want nuthin’,” replied Jed rather dolefully.

“See here,” snapped the judge, “I won’t have any more of this foolishness. You say you don’t want any lawyer. Well, then, what do you intend to do about this case?”

“Well, I tells you, Jedge, I ain’ ’tendin’ to do nuthin’. Ef it’s jes’ de same to you, Jedge, as far as I’s concerned I’s willin’ to let de whole matter drap right here.”—*Everybody’s Magazine*.

English as She Is Uttered.—“What is the cabbage?” inquired the departing patron, who wished to go to the railway station from the hotel.

“What’s the what?” exclaimed the clerk, losing his clutch on the perfect English he usually handed over the counter.

“‘What’s the cabbage?’ I said.”

“I know you did, but I do not quite get your meaning.”

“Oh, you don’t? You know what cabbage is, don’t you?”

"I guess I've seen enough of it to know. I used to live in the suburbs of Chicago."

"Well, what is it from here to the depot?"

"I suppose it is just what it is everywhere else; that is, a vegetable which—"

The departing patron interrupted with violence.

"Aw, say," he protested, "you ought to be plowed under, or fertilized, or something. Cabbage is cab fare, ain't it?"—Lippincott's.

BOOK REVIEWS.

All book reviews are by the editor in chief unless otherwise expressly stated.

The Encyclopedia of United States Supreme Court Reports, being a Complete Encyclopedia of All the Case Law of the Federal Supreme Court up to and including Volume 206, U. S. Supreme Court Reports (Book 51 Lawyers' Edition). Vol. IV. Constitutional Law to Courts-Martial, inclusive. The Michie Company, Charlottesville, Va. 1909. Price \$6.00.

If any doubts ever existed in the mind of any lawyer examining the work above mentioned as to the wisdom of its arrangement, a perusal of the articles "Constitutional Law" and "Courts" in the present volume, would entirely remove them. Digests, as an almost universal rule, have been merely excerpts of cases grouped together under various headings, with about as much connection as the words in a dictionary. The examiner could find "cases," but had to construct his own law from them.

This Encyclopedia of United States Reports is not only a Digest, but a legal treatise on each subject. The two articles mentioned, "Constitutional Law" and "Courts," give in the language of the Court the law of the subject and then the cases with ample excerpts, so that the work is of equal value to the student and the busy brief maker, and can be read as consecutive treatises, in which the subject matter is logically and analytically arranged in such a manner as to make the finding of any particular branch of the law very easy. The two articles mentioned and the one on "Corporations" give evidence not only of marked ability on the part of the authors, but evince a care in method and arrangement which belong only to the highest class of legal authorship. We single these out merely because they are the longest and most important subjects treated in the present volume. All the work is well done and reflects high credit on authors and editor.

The Laws of England, being a complete statement of the whole law of England, by the Right Honorable Earl of Halsbury, Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain; '85-'86, '86-'92 and '92-'05. Volume 6, containing Compulsory Purchase of Land and Compensation, Conflict of Laws and Constitutional Law. London. Butterworth & Co. Cromarty Law Book Company, 1112 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.; and Lawyers' Co-Operative Publishing Company, Rochester, N. Y., Sole Agents for the United States. 1909. Price \$7.50, net.

Volume 6 of this work is issued in advance of Volume 5. This last named volume is to be devoted entirely to "Company" law. The